

-7-

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on July 16, 2004. Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in the application. Claims 6 and 7 are withdrawn, claims 10-20 are allowed and claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected. Applicants respond to the rejection of claims 1 and 3-9 as follows.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention on the basis that the recitation of "imbalanced SLIP interface" is vague, and it is not apparent how the SLIP interface is structurally interconnected or where the interface is located. Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite an integrated pad proximate to the trailing edge elevated above a raised bearing surface and dynamically imbalanced on the slider body to form a predicted tipped interface, which as amended is believed proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,424,495 on the basis that FIG. 2 of Kobayashi discloses a dynamically imbalanced (SLIP) to form a predicted tipped position in the vicinity of head 26 and FIGS. 6-7 disclose use of a laser to provide a textured surface on the bearing surface at col. 3, lines 40-42.

In FIG. 2, Kobayashi discloses trailing edge pads 34, 35 on a slider body 21 of slider 14. Pad 34 is shifted towards the inflow or leading end as compared with pad 35 to prevent collision between the pad 34 and disc surface. The slider of FIG. 2 also includes protrusion 36 formed on a transducer protection layer 22

-8-

as also shown in FIG. 3 to reduce trailing edge contact area between the slider and disc surface introduced by reverse rotation of the disc or slider tipping as illustrated by M2 of FIG. 4.

FIGS. 2-3 do not teach a textured surface to limit tipping stiction at a predicted tipped position proximate to a trailing edge of the slider body. Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-9 were rejected on the basis that it would have been obvious to provide a textured surface on the bearing surface at the predicted tipped position of FIGS. 2-3 in view of FIGS. 6-7, Col. 3, lines 40-42 of Kobayashi to limit stiction. FIGS. 2-3 disclose protrusion 36 on the transducer layer 21 and groove 37 between the transducer layer 22 and slider body 21 to limit tipping stiction in combination with trailing edge pad 35 and recessed trailing edge pad 34 on the slider body 21. Thus, there is no basis to modify FIG. 2 to provide a textured surface on the slider body to limit tipping stiction as a result of the trailing edge pads 34 and 35.

FIGS. 6-7 illustrate opposed leading edge pads 33 and a textured or rugged surface 51 at the trailing edge to limit stiction in place of the first and second trailing edge pads 34, 35 and protrusions 36. Col. 9, lines 4 -9. Thus Kobayashi teaches away from a rugged surface 51 in combination with trailing edge pads 34, 35. Since Kobayashi teaches away from a rugged surface 51 in combination with trailing edge pads 34, 35 of FIG. 2, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case to modify the reference to provide a textured surface at a predicted tipped position formed by a dynamically imbalanced trailing edge interface or dynamically imbalanced trailing edge pad as set forth in claims 1, 3-5, 8-9. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 8-9 and withdrawn claims 6 and 7 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency

-9-

required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit
Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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